

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 AID-05 SY-05 ISO-00 EB-07 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-01

DPW-01 IO-10 OMB-01 SCA-01 PER-01 /125 W

----- 038530

O R 081216Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 214

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF
CTF SEVEN SIX
CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6061

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT -APRIL 8, 1975

GENERAL

1. IN THE WAKE OF NEAK LUONG'S FALL AND CONTINUING DETERIOR-
ATION IN FANK'S POSTURE AROUND PHNOM PENH, THE EMBASSY EVACUATED
ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF ITS AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND BEGAN TO MOVE
LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO THAILAND. ALL FOREIGN
MISSIONS HAVE GONE EXCEPT FOR TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONSULAR OFFICERS.
LON NOL'S DEPARTURE, SAUKHAM KHOY'S ACCESSION AS ACTING PRES-
IDENT, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW AUSTERITY MEASURES AND NEW NO-
NONSENSE ATTITUDE HAVE RAISED CIVILIAN MORALE, BUT TROOP COMMANDERS
FACING BATTLEFIELD REALITIES SHOWED ATTITUDES BORDERING ON RESIG-
NATION BEFORE WHAT THEY BELIEVE IS A LIKELY DEFEAT AT KC HANDS. BOTH
SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ANXIOUSLY AWAIT NEWS OF CONGRESSIONAL
ACTION ON SUPPLEMENTARY AID TO CAMBODIA, THOUGH THEY REALIZE
THE PROSPECTS ARE NOT BRIGHT.

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POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. THERE WAS LITTLE OVERT INTERNAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOLLOWING
THE DEPARTURE OF MARSHAL LON NOL ON APRIL 1. WAITING RESPECTFUL
DAY'S INTERVAL, ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY BROADCAST ON
APRIL 3 A SHORT ADDRESS TO NATION, APPEALING TO ALL
ELEMENTS TO JOIN TOGETHER TO CONFRONT AND STABILIZE PRESENT
SITUATION AND TO RESTORE ORDER. THE GKR, HE SAID, WOULD

IMMEDIATELY TRY TO CONTACT THE OTHER SIDE IN ORDER TO DRAW UP A PLAN TO END WAR BETWEEN CAMBODIANS. HE ALSO APPEALED TO ALL SUPERPOWERS TO HELP CAMBODIA END WAR. PENDING RETURN OF PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET, CABINET AND RANKING MILITARY LEADERS HELD DAILY SESSIONS IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO COME UP WITH WAYS OF MAKING THE CONTACTS CALLED FOR BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT. MEANWHILE, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF AUSTERITY MEASURES DESIGNED TO SHAKE PUBLIC APATHY, INCLUDING CLOSING THEATERS AND DANCE HALLS, AND FORBIDDING TRADITIONAL FESTIVITIES BEFORE AND AFTER THE KHMER NEW YEAR, WHICH TAKES PLACE IN THE COMING WEEK. THE CURFEW WAS MOVED UP AN HOUR TO 8 P.M. AND THE SOMEWHAT THEORETICAL DRAFT AGE WAS RAISED FROM 35 TO 40.

3. ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY HAS ADDRESSED AN AS YET UNRELEASED LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD IN A SOMEWHAT MOVING AND POIGNANT APPEAL FOR FAVORABLE ACTION BY CONGRESS ON ADDITIONAL AID FOR CAMBODIA.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

4. THIS WAS THE WEEK OF ALMOST COMPLETE DIPLOMATIC EXODUS, WITH THE DEPARTURE OF NATIONALIST CHINESE ON 4TH, JAPANESE, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE (LESS 2 CONSULAR OFFICERS LEFT BEHIND). AND REMAINING THAI MILITARY MISSION (THE CHANCERY HAD PREVIOUSLY CLOSED) ON THE 5TH. THE LONE LAO CHARGE ALSO LEFT AT END OF THE WEEK. PRESIDENT SUHARTO HELD A LARGELY CEREMONIAL MEETING WITH LON NOL IN BALI ON APRIL 3, WHILE LONG BORET AND FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK CONFERRED (THE MARSHAL IS DUE TO LEAVE FOR HAWAII ON APRIL 10). LONG BORET THEN FLEW TO BANGKOK TO MEET WITH NEW AND LOQUACIOUS THAI FOREIGN MINISTER, AMID A MUTED CHORUS OF SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ASEAN SUMMIT TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS. LONG BORET
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RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH ON APRIL 8.

GRUNK/FUNK

5. AS USUAL, SOUND AND FURY OF THE WEEK, SIGNIFYING LITTLE, WAS FURNISHED BY THE DAILY DIET OF SIHANOUK BOMBAST. AFTER HIS EARLIER MARCH 26 SPEECH, WHICH HAD ADDED ANOTHER 21 NAMES OF WAR CRIMINALS TO THE SEVEN TRAITORS (ONLY 3 OF WHOM REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY), HE LASHED OUT AT INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND THAILAND, APPARENTLY STUNG BY TALK OF ASEAN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT SOME DIALOG BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. HE CALLED ON WESTERN NATIONS TO RECOGNIZE GRUNK NOW, TO SHOW THE "PURITY" OF THEIR MOTIVES. SAUKHAM KHOY'S PEACE CALL WAS AN "ODIOUS AND CONTEMPTIBLE TRAP" OF U.S. IMPERIALISM, ADAM MALIK WAS A GROSS LIAR, LONG BORET IS THE TITLED LACKEY OF JOHN GUNTHER

DEAN....AND SO ON. A TYPICAL, NOISY SIHANOUK WEEK.

6. A REFRESHING CONTRAST, IN TONE AT LEAST, WAS AN APRIL 1 STATEMENT BROADCAST LIVE IN CAMBODIAN BY KHIEU SAMPHAN. AFTER PORTRAYING THE GKR AS ON THE VERGE OF COLLAPSE, AND AFTER THE USUAL REFERENCES TO THE SEVEN TRAITORS BY NAME, NOTING THAT SEVERAL HAD ALREADY "FLED," HE PROCLAIMED THE LEGITIMACY OF FUNK WITH SIHANOUK AS "CHAIRMAN" AND OF GRUNK WITH PENN NOUTH AS PRIME MINISTER AND KHIEU SAMPHAN AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. THEY WILL ADMINISTER ALL CAMBODIA AND PHNOM PENH. FUNK/GRUNK/CPNLAF APPEAL TO ALL OFFICERS AND MEN OF FANK TO LAY DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND JOIN FUNK NOW. CIVIL SERVANTS WERE ALSO WELCOMED TO COME OVER. ALL WERE ABJURED TO AVOID MANEUVERS OF THE SEVEN TRAITORS AND US IMPERIALISTS. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF ADDITIONAL WAR CRIMINALS, BUT NEITHER WAS THERE A SPECIFIC CLEAR OFFER OF AMNESTY.

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SSO-00

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DPW-01 IO-10 OMB-01 SCA-01 PER-01 /125 W

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O R 081216Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 215

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

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AMCONSUL UDORN
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF
CTF SEVEN SIX
CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6061

7. MEANWHILE, INDIA RECOGNIZED THE GRUNK AND ASKED THE GKR
CHARGE TO LEAVE, AS DID THE USSR AND POLAND, WHILE LIBERIA
INFORMED US THAT IT MIGHT ALSO SOON BE FORCED TO GO THE
RECOGNITION ROUTE.

MILITARY

8. CRACKS HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR IN PHNOM PENH DEFENSES AS THE
CAPITAL AWAITS A MAJOR OFFENSIVE FROM KC TROOPS MOVING NORTH
AFTER THEIR VICTORY OVER NEAK LUONG AND BANAM. FANK DEFENDERS
SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, WHERE WE ASSUME THE FIRST

BLOW WILL FALL, HAVE REACTED BADLY TO INCREASED KC AGGRESSIVENESS. THE KC HAVE PUSHED A MOTLEY FORCE DEFENDING THE CAPITAL'S NORTHERN DIKE OFF THE DIKE ALONG MOST OF ITS LENGTH. WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH THE THIRD DIVISION HAS PULLED A BATTALION POSITION BACK, WHILE THE KC FORCED A KEY STRONGPOINT ON ROUTE 4 TO WITHDRAW, PUSHING FANK'S DEFENSIVE LINE TO A POINT EAST OF ANG SNUOL, A DOZEN KILOMETERS FROM THE AIRPORT.

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9. THE KC BROKE THROUGH FANK DEFENSES AT NEAK LUONG AND BANAM APRIL 1. ONLY ABOUT 160 DEFENDERS OF SOME 4500 FANK HAVE SO FAR REACHED FRIENDLY LINES AT PREY VENG OR SVAY RIENG. THE FALL OF THE TWO TOWNS RELEASES ABOUT 5,000 KC TROOPS WITH CONSIDERABLE CAPTURED ARTILLERY AND AMMUNITION FOR DEPLOYMENT AGAINST PHNOM PENH.

10. FANK UNITS ON THE WEST BANK OF THE BASSAC GAVE UP GROUND THAT HAD BEEN HARD-WON DURING LAST YEAR'S BASSAC OPERATION, THE KC HAVE STEADILY INCREASED THEIR ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST THIS SECTOR. BETWEEN THE BASSAC AND MEKONG RIVERS ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH DIVISION HAVE TAKEN OVER THE FARTHEST POSTS UNDER FANK CONTROL ON ROUTE 1. THE TOUGH 43RD BRIGADE (2D DIVISION) IS BACKING UP THE TROOPS FROM THE 9TH AND WILL ALSO SUPPORT ITS SISTER 24TH BRIGADE ON LINE SOUTHWEST OF ROUTE 1. THE KC ARE EXPECTED TO HIT THIS AREA HARD.

11. THE KC CONTINUED TO MAKE INROADS SOUTH OF THE NORTHERN DIKE. THE ELITE 28TH BRIGADE FOUGHT HARD, INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES IN ITS AREA ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE DIKE, BUT

FANK COMMAND AND CONTROL OVER THE MOTELY COLLECTION OF UNITS DEFENDING IN THE NORTHWEST CONTINUED TO HAMPER EFFECTIVE OVERALL DEFENSE. ON APRIL 7 FORMER 7TH DIVISION CG, BG DENG LAYOM ASSUMED OVERALL COMMAND, WITH 7TH DIV COMMANDER BG KHY HAK COMMANDING THE EAST WING AND ARMOR COMMANDER BG YAI SINDY COMMANDING THE WEST WING. THE KC FORCED 45TH BRIGADE ELEMENTS TO WITHDRAW APRIL 7, REACHING A POINT 6 KILOMETERS FROM THE AIRPORT AND GAINING CLOSER FIRING ACCESS TO POCHENTONG AND THREATENING THE INTEGRITY OF THE DIKE DEFENSES.

12. HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST THE THIRD DIVISION SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH HAS CAUSED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE WESTERNMOST BATTALION-SIZED POSITION, FANK DISENGAGEMENT OPERATIONS, HOWEVER, INFLECTED AN ESTIMATED 200 KILLED ON THE ENEMY ON APRIL 6. AT THE SAME TIME THE KC FORCED THE STRONGPOINT AT THNAL TOTUNG, WEST OF ANY SNUOL ON ROUTE 4, TO WITHDRAW, WITH 200 MEN AND MUCH EQUIPMENT NOT ACCOUNTED FOR. THE NEW DEFENSE LINE RUNS EAST OF ANG SNUOL, WHICH IS 12 KILOMETERS FROM THE AIRPORT.

13. AT KOMPONG SPEU ON ROUTE 4 HEAVY FIGHTING REACHED THE EASTERN
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EDGE OF THE CITY MARKET, BUT AIRDROPS OF AMMUNITION AND RICE APPARENTLY HELPED STIFFEN THE DEFENDERS, WHO ARE ALL TERRITORIALS, SINCE THE MR 2 INTERVENTION FORCES HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THE OPERATION TO RETAKE TUOL LEAP. FURTHER DOWN ROUTE 4, TWO WEEKS OF ACCELERATING EFFORTS BY KHMER AIR FORCE C-123S SUCCEEDED APRIL 4, WHEN THE LAST OF 1300 TROOPS AND 2000 FAMILY MEMBERS AND REFUGEES DEPARTED THE KOMPONG SEILA ENCLAVE. THE TROOPS HAVE BEEN PUT INTO PHNOM PENH'S DEFENSES.

14. NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, THE TRANSFER OF THE 28TH BRIGADE HAD CAUSED A SOFTENING OF DEFENSES NORTH OF CHROUY CHANGWAR PENINSULA. THE NAVAL BASE IS CONSTRUCTING STRONGER POSITIONS, AND 155-MM HOWITZERS HAVE MOVED BACK TOWARD THE BASE. ACROSS THE MEKONG FROM PHNOM PENH, A BATTALION AND A 75-MM HOWITZER SECTION LEFT BARONG KHNAOR KAR WHICH HAD BEEN THE EASTERNMOST POSITION OF THE CAPITAL'S DEFENSES, AND MOVED IN GOOD ORDER WITH EQUIPMENT CLOSER TO THE RIVER AND THE 84TH BRIGADE HEAD-QUARTERS.

15. THE KC CONTINUED TO KEEP THE INITIATIVE AROUND BATTAMBANG CITY, BUT FANK APPEARS TO HAVE STABILIZED A LINE EAST AND SOUTHEAST OF THE TOWN. ELSEWHERE IN MR 3 THMAR PUOK FORCES KILLED 70 KC IN CLEARING OPERATIONS ON A ROAD TO THAT PROVINCE CAPITAL.

16. PREY VENG CAME UNDER HEAVIER PRESSURE AFTER NEAK LUONG FELL, LOSING 5 POSITIONS, MOST OF WHICH WERE ON THE NORTHERN OUTER DEFENSE SHELL. CLEARING OPERATIONS HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR OVER 100 KC KILLED SINCE APRIL 6.

17. ATTACKS BY FIRE AND MAINTENANCE DEGRADATION CONTINUED TO TAKE ITS TOLL OF KAF OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES. THE WEEK SAW ROCKETS DESTROY TWO T-28S AND DAMAGE THREE C-123S. ONE AC-47 GUNSHIP CRASHED NEAR ANG SNUOL. INCOMING ROCKETS HAVE DAMAGED OVER 50 AIRCRAFT SINCE MARCH 15 AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, CAUSED A MAJOR LOSS OF MAINTENANCE TIME AS WORKERS HEAD FOR THE BUNKERS.
DEAN

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